

The Hazardous Materials Transportation Safety Improvement Act of 2012

Title IV, the *Hazardous Materials Transportation Safety Improvement Act of 2012* (HMTSIA) reauthorizes the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) Office of Hazardous Materials Safety, within the Department of Transportation and takes a number of steps to increase the safety and oversight of the hazardous materials being transported through our nation's transportation networks. The legislation:

Increasing Safety

- Requires more training for emergency responders to more effectively protect persons, property, and the environment in the event of accidents or incidents that occur during hazardous materials transportation;
- Directs the Secretary of Transportation to establish uniform regulations for the safe loading and unloading of hazardous materials on and off rail tank cars and cargo tank trucks;

Heightening Enforcement

 Increases the maximum civil penalties for hazardous materials transportation violations and authorizes new penalties on individuals who obstruct investigations or refuse to pay penalties;

Improving Governance

- Allows the Secretary of Transportation to develop a program that enables shippers
 of hazardous materials to exchange shipping information electronically with carriers,
 emergency responders, and enforcement personnel;
- Requires states to supply hazardous material highway routing designations to the Secretary of Transportation at least every 2 years and within 60 days of any modification; and
- Requires the development of clear and consistent procedures and criteria for evaluating applications for hazardous materials transportation special permits and approvals.